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STATED MEETING, MAY 3, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Fifteenth Annual Report of the Regents of the University of New York. Albany, N. Y. 1841. From the Regents.

Catalogue des Lepidoptères, ou Papillons de la Belgique. Par Edm. de Selys Longchamps. Leige, 1837. From the Author.

Notices sur les Libellulidées; Extraites des Bulletins de l'Academie Royale de Bruxelles. Par M. de Longchamps. Brussels, 1840. From the same.

Monographie des Libellulidées d'Europe. Par M. de Longchamps. Paris, 1840. From the same.

Etudes de Micromammalogie: Revue des Musaraignes des Rats et des Campagnols. Par M. de Longchamps. Paris, 1839. From the same.

Essai Monographique sur les Campagnols des Environs de Leige. Par M. de Longchamps. From the same.

A Third Memoir with reference to the Law of Storms in India. By Henry Piddington. Calcutta, 1841. From the Author.

Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. No. 108. 1840. From the Society.

A Flora of North America. Vol. II. Part 2nd. April, 1842. By John Torrey and Asa Gray.

A Memoir of the Fossil Reptiles of the South-east of England. By Gideon Mantell, M. D. 4to. 1841. From the Author.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters were read—

From Mr. William Vaughan, dated London, March 5, 1842, stating that he had transmitted a parcel to the Academy, from the Linnean Society of London :

From M. de Longchamps, dated Liege, April 15, 1841, in relation to the books presented this evening ; and also expressing a wish to obtain Part I. of Vol. VIII. of the Journal of the Academy. A list is likewise given of various insects and animals, which he is desirous of exchanging for similar objects of this country :

And from George R. Gliddon, Esq. dated New York, April 24, 1842, stating that he has presented to the Academy a collection of Geological and other specimens from Egypt : and also acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as Correspondent of the Academy.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Dr. Chaloner stated, that he had been informed by a gentleman from Washington county, Pennsylvania, who had recently returned from Central America, and had there met with Messrs. Stevens and Catherwood, that these latter had discovered the remains of another city, covering an area of about six miles square.

The ruins were in a good state of preservation ; and some specimens of sculpture brought thence by him, evince marks of much skill and beauty.

The ‘beam of wood referred to in Stevens’s Central America, and found in the ruins of Uxmal, was stated to be well preserved. The tree from which the wood is derived, is called by the natives Zapadillo. It is more durable than live oak or red cedar, sinks in water, and when polished, resembles ‘Partridge wood,’ but is darker and harder.

Dr. Chaloner made inquiry with regard to some Infusoria said to have been discovered in the green sediment of pools; and which are stated to possess the peculiar property of evolving oxygen gas under the influence of the sun's rays.

When examined by the microscope, they rose to the surface, emitted a bubble of gas and then subsided. This gas, collected in an inverted jar, was found on analysis to yield about 80 per cent. of oxygen.

Dr. B. H. Coates then made some remarks on the progress of discovery in relation to this class of animals; and called the attention of the members to the late work of Mr. Pritchard, and communicated some of the information which he had derived from this author.

Dr. Bridges remarked that, in relation to the first mentioned discovery, in the absence of more definite information, the facts which had been communicated, would lead us to suppose that the subjects of observation were of a vegetable nature; since it is well known that vegetables under the influence of the sun's rays, evolve oxygen by the decomposition of carbonic acid, which is always present in the atmosphere and in water. He also alluded to the difficulty of discrimination between animal and vegetable bodies, especially in microscopic objects, and made reference to a paper on the Sponge, in one of the late numbers of the Transactions of the Linnean Society, to illustrate the great accuracy of observation required in these cases.

BUSINESS BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was then offered and adopted:

Resolved.—That the 8th Vol. of the Journal of the Academy be presented to M. de Longchamps.